

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 1 of 1881.]

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st January 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.			Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.							
Monthly.							
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	...	...	Calcutta	2,100		
2	"Grām-vartā Prakāshikā"	...	...	Comercolly	175		
Fortnightly.							
3	"Sansodhini"	...	...	Chittagong	600	21st December 1880.	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	...	...	Ditto			
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	...	...	Rajshahye	31		
Weekly.							
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	...	...	Calcutta	700	20th	ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	...	...	Ditto		24th	ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	...	...	Mymensingh	671	21st	ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	...	...	Calcutta	2,000		
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	...	...	Bardwān	296	20th	ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	...	...	Dacca	350	26th	ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	...	...	Hooghly	745	24th	ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	...	...	Beauleah, Rājshāhye	200	22nd	ditto.
14	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	...	...	Berhampore	487	24th	ditto.
15	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	...	...	Ditto		17th	ditto.
16	"Navavibhākar"	...	...	Calcutta	850	20th	ditto.
17	"Pratikār"	...	...	Berhampore	275		
18	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	...	...	Kākinia, Rangpore	250	23rd	ditto.
19	"Sādhārani"	...	...	Chinsurah	500		
20	"Sahachar"	...	...	Calcutta	500	20th	ditto.
21	"Som Prakāsh"	...	...	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.		27th	ditto.
22	"Sulabha Samāchār"	...	...	Calcutta	4,000	25th	ditto.
23	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	...	...	Sylhet	440	20th	ditto.
24	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	...	...	Commillah		25th	ditto.
Daily.							
25	"Samvād Prabhākar"	...	...	Calcutta	700	18th to 25th December 1880.	
26	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	...	...	Ditto	300	22nd to 31st	ditto.
27	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	...	...	Ditto	625	23rd to 31st	ditto.
28	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	...	...	Ditto	500	27th to 31st	ditto.
29	"Prabhāti"	...	...	Ditto		20th to 22nd	ditto.
ENGLISH AND URDU.							
Weekly.							
30	"Urdu Guide"	...	...	Ditto	365	25th December 1880.	
HINDI.							
Weekly.							
31	"Behār Bandhu"	...	...	Bankipore, Patna	500	23rd	ditto.
32	"Bhārat Mitra"	...	...	Calcutta	500		
33	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	...	...	Ditto	200	20th and 27th December 1880.	
34	"Uchit Baktā"	...	...	Ditto		25th December 1880.	
PERSIAN.							
Weekly.							
35	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	...	...	Ditto	250	24th	ditto.
URDU.							
Weekly.							
36	"Tijarut-ul-Akhbār"	...	...	Ditto			
ASSAMESE.							
Monthly.							
37	"Assam Vilāsini"	...	...	Sibsagar		Ashwin, 1287, B. S.	

POLITICAL.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
December 20th, 1880.

Adverting to the suggestions connected with the administration of India made by Mr. Caird, the *Srihatta Prakásh*, of the 20th December, remarks that the

Government of India has, in its reply, argued in favour of a continuance of the present state of things. Every one is apt to overlook his own fault, the more so, if any self-interest is threatened. Time will, however, compel the British nation to adopt most of the recommendations which have now been made by Mr. Caird.

SAHACHAR,
December 20th, 1880.

2. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar* of the 20th December:—How in

The perseverance of Manchester. his eagerness to gratify Manchester, Lord Lytton, at the instance of Mr. Disraeli, and in consultation with Sir John Strachey, in one day sacrificed a large amount of revenue, no one perhaps requires to be told at this hour of day. The reason why it had become necessary to conciliate Manchester is an old story. The weavers of Lancashire possess considerable influence, and the importance of securing their votes at the general elections was well realized by the Tory Ministry then in office. However opposed to English morality the practice of giving directly or indirectly bribes to the electors may be, yet it does exist in reality. Readers of English newspapers are well aware of the extent to which corruption prevailed during the late elections. As an instance of indirect bribe offered to a constituency, may be mentioned the action of the Indian Government in granting a remission of the cotton duties at a time when the state of the finances was bad, and in imposing a new tax upon the people of this country. The Rulers did not show the least scruple in this matter, and with a view to secure the Lancashire vote at the approaching elections, and on the plea of asserting free trade principles, the Tory Ministry of the day offered the bribe. Of course the people of India are suffering from the consequences of this act, and there is no knowing how much longer they will have to suffer. It is earnestly to be hoped that Lord Ripon will be enabled to resume his work with renewed health and strength; but it is almost certain that he will not have the courage to incur the displeasure of Manchester. Even the advent of a new Finance Minister has not inspired the public with much hope. Major Baring, although he has not clearly held out any hope to the Manchester weavers, has nevertheless promised not to do anything in this matter of the import duties until after a careful consideration of the state of the country. Even a promise of this sort is not certainly a small matter. Sir Ashley Eden, however, having in the meantime expressed, in an official document, his belief that the partial remission of the import duties on Manchester piece-goods has inflicted a loss of revenue upon Bengal, there was great consternation in the minds of the Lancashire weavers, who lost no time in sending a deputation to the Secretary of State. They have been reassured, and thus the people of India have been disappointed. The expectations which were formed at the return of the Liberals to power are being gradually dissipated. The Press Act, the Arms Act, the reduced cotton tariff, and the License Tax, all continue. Fortunately, the Afghan War only has been brought to a termination. And so at last Manchester wins the day.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 20th, 1880.

3. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 20th December, discusses at length the question raised by Mr. Grant Allen in the pages of a leading English periodical, namely, whether India is really a burden on England. The writer characterizes Mr. Allen's arguments as childish and absurd, although the latter has made a parade of figures and statistics. He points out that Mr. Allen betrays a lamentable ignorance of Indian history. He is wrong in his

contention that England pays more than she receives from India. The fact is, it is this country which has always paid to the English Exchequer over and above what she is justly liable for. Her industries and commerce have been destroyed by foreign competition. England without India would lose all her glory and dwindle into insignificance.

4. The same paper, after noticing some of the recommendations made by Mr. Caird for improving the present system of administration in India, remarks that the collection of rent in kind is well suited to the circumstances of this country; that Provincial Governments should have complete independence in the matter of raising revenue and incurring expenditure; that natives should be more largely employed in the public service, and free scope given for the exercise of their talents; and that the system of administration which obtains in the Native States of India should be carefully studied with a view to the adoption of anything which might be found really beneficial in it.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 20th, 1880.

5. The same paper is glad to notice that the new Finance Minister was shrewd enough not to be bound by any promise to the merchants of Manchester. He did not hold out any hope to them, and thus there is not much room for apprehension, so far as the people of this country are concerned. The arguments employed by the Lancashire deputation are not new, and are not in the least applicable to the state of things really existing in India.

The new Finance Minister and Manchester.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

6. The chief cause, remarks the same paper, of the poverty of the people of India, is to be found in the present rigorous and inelastic system of collecting the revenue, and in the expensiveness of the administration. It is therefore not an increase of population alone that is answerable for the miseries of India.

Dr. Hunter on India.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

7. The *Srihatta Prakash*, of the 20th December, remarks in reference to the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the necessity of amending certain portions of the Labour Districts Emigration Act, that there are many matters connected with emigrants which require consideration; such, for instance, are the arrangements which should be made for consulting their convenience as regards their diet and medical treatment while on the way to the labour districts. Care should further be taken to see that labourers who might be suffering from any disease, or were unfit for active work, are not sent at all. These do not generally live long enough to reach the plantations.

Committee to enquire into certain matters connected with emigration into labour districts.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
December 20th, 1880.

8. In an article on the Assam Education Report for 1879-80, and the Chief Commissioner's observations thereon, the same paper notices with gratification that education is steadily spreading in Assam. The people cannot be too grateful for this. If there is one thing for which the natives of this country are indebted to the British Government, it is the English education which they have received from it. Sir Steuart Bayley has really done an important service to the cause of education by again vesting the Inspector of Schools with the powers which Sir George Campbell had transferred to the District School Committees.

Assam Education Report for 1879-80.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH.

9. The *Sar Sudhanidhi*, of the 20th December, advocates the continuance of the Press Commissionership, but suggests that it should be placed on an

The Press Commissioner.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
December 20th, 1880.

improved footing. Official information should be supplied impartially to all newspapers.

SANACHAR,
December 20th, 1880.

10. The *Sahachar*, of the 20th December, contains a long article

Tyrannical officers of justice.

Messrs. Campbell, Moseley, and
Hopkinson.

headed the "Tyrannical officers of justice in the mofussil," from which we make the following extracts:—There will never, it would seem, be an end of the tales of wrong committed by arbitrary executive and judicial officers in the mofussil. Hardly have the names of Clay, Kirkwood, Worseley, and Moseley slipped from men's minds, when another (Mr. Campbell) appears on the scene. This man was officiating as Judge of Burrisal. Regarding his judicial ability, love of justice, knowledge of law and men, and breadth of view, no accurate information is before the public. One thing, however, is certain. His warm blood has become warmer in the atmosphere of India. Hot-blooded Magistrates are not rare, but not so hot-blooded Judges. One, however, has at length been found in Mr. Campbell. He forcibly illustrates the truth of the maxim, that such men are not fit for the work of a Sessions Judge. It is, however, difficult to tell whether there is not something in the name Campbell. [Here follows an account of the incident relating to a Brahmin constable's trespassing into the Judge's compound.] Sir Ashley Eden has meted out even-handed justice in this case. Justice has been vindicated, while Mr. Campbell has received a lesson. There may, however, well be a difference of opinion as to whether such a person should not have been at once dismissed from the service of Government. The *Sahachar*, as a vernacular newspaper, with Act IX of 1878 suspended over its head, does not venture to deal with this question. Who knows that there are not more Judges of the type of Mr. Campbell? Mr. Moseley of Maldah notoriety has again come to the front. [Here is given an account of the Magistrate's misunderstanding with Baboo Atul Chundra Chatterji, Sub-Divisional Officer of Jungypore.] The Editor hopes Sir Ashley Eden will in this case pass an impartial decision. The article concludes with directing His Honor's attention to the pranks of Major Hopkinson of Barrackpore.

*ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,*
December 20th, 1880.

11. The following extracts are made from the opening article of the

Increase of the Stamp revenue.

Ananda Bazar Patrika of the 20th December:—The Stamp revenue in Bengal has steadily expanded since the auspicious advent of Sir Ashley Eden. If there is one thing more than another which has ruined this country, it is the prevalence of litigation; and litigation has increased in a direct ratio with the expansion of the Stamp revenue. This increase in the profits from the sale of stamps indicates something more than a mere increase in the number of lawsuits. It indicates the extent of indebtedness of the people, and the relations subsisting between landlords and tenants. The more a people become impoverished, the more frequently do they feel the necessity of resorting to the money-lenders, and thus of using stamps. The existence of bad feelings between landlords and tenants similarly acts as a motive for the use of stamped *pottahs* and *kabuliyats*. It is thus clear that an increased Stamp revenue is as direct an indication of the miserable state of the country, as an increase of revenue obtained from the Income or the License Tax is of the flourishing condition of its people. Sir Ashley Eden is very careful in fostering the revenue from Stamps and Excise. His administration is marked by an augmentation of the revenue from both these sources, and an increase of mortality in the jails, and, at the same time, by a reduction of expenditure in hospitals and in the Education and Public Works Departments. And although he has been successful in developing the revenue obtained from these objectionable sources, he has perhaps inflicted as much injury upon the people as his

predecessors had conferred upon them benefits. And yet those rulers did not augment the resources of the State either by fostering litigation or drunkenness. Sir Ashley Eden is not, however, content with having augmented the revenue, or having impoverished the people by encouraging intemperance and litigation. He has dealt a blow at the root of high education, and in a manner abolished those most useful institutions, the charitable dispensaries, while there is no talk of constructing new or repairing old roads. At his instance again a Draft Rent Bill has been framed ; and if this is passed into law, there will be an enormous expansion of the Stamp revenue.

12. The same paper publishes in Bengali the substance of an article in the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 9th December, containing brief accounts of two cases of magisterial oppression in the mofussil. The first case is that of one Bidhúmani, a widow living under the jurisdiction of the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore. Now this woman had some dispute with certain amlah of the Magistrate's Court, and these men represented to the Magistrate that, although she was carrying on the trade of a prostitute, she had not registered her name under Act XIV. Thereupon she was ordered to apply for registration, and to undergo the required medical examination. But before the order could be carried out she fled from Barrackpore, and sought the protection of the High Court, which directed the Magistrate to hold a regular trial. The result was that the Magistrate confirmed his former order in spite of the fact that many respectable persons of the locality bore testimony to her good character. One shudders to think of the injustice that has been done by this proceeding of the Magistrate, if the woman Bidhúmani be not really a prostitute. One thing, however, is certain ; if the evidence which convinced the Court of her unchastity were held sufficient, even the wives of the highest English officials would not be exempted from the operation of Act XIV. In the second case, the prominent characters are Mr. Allen, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Hajipore, and the native doctor of the local hospital. The decline of the influence of vernacular newspapers, for which Sir Ashley Eden may be held responsible, has kept pace with an increase of magisterial vagaries, which are in a great measure due to the laxity which marks the present administration.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
December 20th, 1880.

13. The same paper commends the action of Sir Ashley Eden in the case of Mr. Campbell, Judge of Burrisal. Condign punishment has been meted out to the offender.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

14. The same paper notices a fearful outbreak of malarious fever in Nuddea and adjacent localities, and earnestly implores Government to promptly send medical aid.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

15. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 20th December, regrets to observe that even now, when Sir Ashley Eden is at the head of the administration of Bengal, there occur occasionally cases of high-handed proceedings on the part of Magistrates. The Editor then refers to the case of Mr. Moseley and Babu Atul Chundra Chatterji, respectively the Magistrate and Deputy Magistrate of Moorshedabad. The Deputy Magistrate does not appear to have done anything improper, and there could be no justification for Mr. Moseley's abusing him. This is the first instance in which a gentleman, a Magistrate, is found to have abused another, and he too an official, in a manner in which the subordinate officers in the Police only are known to abuse persons of the lowest classes in society. Mr. Moseley has committed an unpardonable offence, and it is to be hoped the Lieutenant-Governor will deal with him in an exemplary way.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
December 20th, 1880.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
December 21st, 1880.

16. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st December, remarks in

The Draft Rent Bill; letter of the
British Indian Association and Sir
Ashley Eden's reply.

reference to the reply of the Lieutenant-Governor to a recent letter of the British Indian Association, enquiring into his views on the Draft Bill of the Bengal Rent Law Commission, that there are three things mentioned in the reply—namely (1) the right of occupancy; (2) the enhancement of rents; and (3) the creation of facilities for the recovery of arrears of rent. Now the observations made by His Honor on the first-named subject, that is, the conferring of the right of occupancy on the tenant, are such as could not meet with the disapprobation of any other person except a most selfish zemindar. But not so the view expressed by him on the subject of sub-letting by an occupancy ryot. Occasion might frequently arise when, if the tenant did not sub-let, the holding would pass away from his possession. Secondly, as to the means proposed for recovering arrears of rent, there is also room for a difference of opinion. A distraint of crops, even if it be effected with the aid of the court, is a procedure which is liable to great abuses. It is doubtful whether the tenant will be given any opportunity of making a protest. Now a suit may be instituted for recovering arrears of rent by a distraint of the tenant's crops; and it is quite possible that the tenant will not have the least notice of it. So well and regularly (?) is work done by the courts, that cases are not unfrequent in which the summons has been issued and a decree passed and executed, and even the defendant's property has been sold, and yet the defendant has not had the least notice of these occurrences. And who knows that the zemindar, if he but desires to harm the tenant, will not have recourse to similar means? As regards the third point, the enhancement of rents, Government appears to possess almost unbounded confidence in the ability of District Collectors and Settlement Officers. The idea of a table of rates to be prepared by District Commissions is the outcome of this feeling; in practice, however, it is likely to prove injurious.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

17. The same paper remarks that the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the case of Mr. Campbell, lately the Judge of Burrisal, is really just and commendable.

Mr. Campbell of Burrisal.

BHARAT MIHIR,
December 21st, 1880.

18. The *Bhārat Mihir* prays to God for the speedy recovery of Lord Ripon from the illness which has detained him at Allahabad, and his safe arrival in the metropolis.

Lord Ripon.

BHARAT MIHIR.

19. The same paper observes that the Draft Rent Bill aims at introducing certain radical changes in the existing relations between landlords and tenants. It

The Draft Rent Bill.

is a one-sided measure, and wholly favourable to the tenant. No one would object to see the privileges of the landlords curtailed, only so far as might be necessary to remedy certain wrongs which the tenantry suffer at the present time. If the object of the Draft Bill had been to exact a measure which might help the tenant to remain in undisturbed possession of his rights, and at the same time enable the landlord to collect his rents with ease, there would not be the least room for dissatisfaction. It is, however, one thing to confirm and foster tenant-right, and quite another to confer occupancy rights on those who might show possession of from three to twelve years. The present Draft Bill aims not only at guarding the rights of the tenants, but of fostering them at the expense of the landholders. The Editor does not see the justice of the proposal to make enhancement gradual, or of that which lays down that, if the rents were once enhanced, there should not be any re-enhancement before another ten years, even if prices had risen

through the operation of some cause beyond the control of the parties. The proposal to abolish distraint, except through the aid of a court, is not likely to prove beneficial. It is the tenant who will have to pay the expenses.

20. The *Moorshedabad Patriká* is of opinion that the Press Commissionership is a perfectly useless office, so far as the Vernacular Newspapers are concerned.

The Press Commissioner.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
December 24th, 1880.

This office and Act IX of 1878 are measures for which they can never feel grateful.

21. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 24th December, directs the attention of Sir Ashley Eden to the necessity of checking the high-handed proceedings of magisterial officers in the mofussil, which are occasionally noticed in the newspapers. Reference is then made to the case of Mr. Moseley, Magistrate of Moorshedabad, and to certain acts of the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore.

High-handed proceedings of Magistrates.

ARYA DARPAN,
December 24th, 1880.

22. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 25th December, in referring to the same subject, expresses a hope that the Magistrate will be condignly punished by

Mr. Moseley.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
December 25th, 1880.

Sir Ashley Eden.

23. The *Tripurá Vártavaha*, of the 25th December, considers it extremely unreasonable on the part of the Government of Bengal to have proposed at this time, when the state of the finances is anything but satisfactory, an increase of salary for its Financial Secretary, and hopes that the Supreme Government will not sanction the proposal.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA,
December 25th, 1880.

24. The same paper refers to Mr. Moseley's treatment of Babu Atul Chundra Chatterji, and asks the Lieutenant-Governor to attend to the subject.

Mr. Moseley.

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA.

25. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 25th December, suggests the necessity of establishing in Calcutta a college where Mahomedan under-graduates might prosecute their further studies in English in order to qualify themselves for the degrees of the University.

A College for Mahomedan youths!

URDU GUIDE,
December 25th, 1880.

26. Sir Richard Temple, remarks the *Som Prakásh* of the 27th December, has always shown himself wanting in conviction. He constantly changes

Sir Richard Temple's speech on India.

SOM PRAKASH,
December 27th, 1880.

his views and opinions. When in Bengal, he sought to play the rôle of a true friend of this province. This was changed when he became Governor of Bombay. He appears in a different light in England. In a recent speech, Sir Richard laboured to show that the condition of the Indian finances is not after all so bad as it is generally represented to be; and that India should be governed both in the interests of her people and of the British nation. The Editor combats the first theory, by pointing out that, in spite of a steadily increasing revenue, public expenditure also is increasing enormously; that the true condition of the finances is not known even to the Finance Minister, who is in this matter the constitutional adviser of the Viceroy—witness the confession of his error in the last budget by Sir John Strachey—and that the partial remission of the cotton duties has deprived the Indian Exchequer of a large revenue. As to the opinion expressed by Sir Richard Temple that India should be governed in the interests of both the people of this country and of the British nation, it is really to be regretted that the purer political atmosphere of England has failed to produce any beneficial effect upon his mind. He has allied himself with the party which is opposed to the progress of the people of India. Such, however, he did not appear when in India. But, as a matter of fact, is not England benefited by the possession of India? Are not her extensive commerce with India, the large sums taken from this country on account of the Home and Army charges, and the employment offered to a host of

Englishmen, advantages to England? What more would Sir Richard have from this country?

SOM PRAKASH,
December 27th, 1880.

27. The same paper refers to the troubles which have arisen among the Sonthals in consequence of the efforts of Government to take a census of the people.

The census in Sonthalistan.

The Editor suggests that the operations connected with the census should be entrusted to persons possessed of education, and not to police officers, and this should be done even if some extra expense became necessary; and that further, the nature of the measure having been clearly explained to the headmen, they should be asked to furnish the necessary returns.

SOM PRAKASH.

28. The same paper contains an article on the retirement of Sir John Strachey, in which is given an estimate of his official career in India. Sir John

Sir John Strachey.

Strachey was devoid of all sympathy with the people of India, and the great influence which he possessed over successive Viceroys was exercised in a manner which has brought discredit on the Government of India. As an exponent of public opinion, the *Som Prakásh* regrets it cannot vote him an address on his retirement from this country.

SOM PRAKASH.

29. The same paper publishes a long account of the dispute between Mr. Moseley and Babu Atul Chundra Chatterji, and hopes Sir Ashley Eden will do justice in this case.

Mr. Moseley.

SOM PRAKASH.

Lord Ripon.

30. The same paper fervently prays to God for the speedy recovery of Lord Ripon.

ASSAM VILASINI,
Aswin, 1287 B. S.

31. There was a short time ago, says the *Assam Vilásini*, a great agitation in all the mouzahs in connection with the impressment of coolies for conveyance of stores to the Naga Hills, and on this plea some of the mouzahdars are even now extorting money from the poor ryots. The district authorities ought to attend a little more minutely to the subject.

The impressment of coolies, and the extortion of the mouzahdars.

ASSAM VILASINI.

32. A correspondent of the same paper writes of the great want of a school at Balipara in Darrang. He says that this is one of the largest and most populous

Want of a school at Balipara.

of the mouzahs in Darrang. A great hát is held here every Sunday. It is surrounded on all sides by large tea plantations, and can boast of a Post and a Forest Office, but notwithstanding all these advantages, the want of a school is very much felt, and he urges that the school authorities will kindly take this into consideration, and establish pathshalas in this locality and some of its neighbouring villages.

MISCELLANEOUS.

33. Almost all the vernacular newspapers pray for the recovery of the Viceroy, and his safe arrival in the metropolis.

Lord Ripon's illness.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 1st January 1881.